

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated January 16, 2008. Claims 1 and 3-12 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 are amended. Claims 2 and 13-18 are cancelled herein. Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependant on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,761 to Smith et al. (hereinafter “Smith”). Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over Smith, as it is amended herein. Claim 1 is amended to include the elements recited in claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Smith has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Since claims 7, 8 and 12 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance and the rejection of claims 7, 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Smith should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-5 stand objected to as being dependant on a rejected base claim. Claim 3 is amended herein to depend from claim 1, and claims 4-5 as originally submitted depend indirectly from claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that since claim 1 is in condition for allowance as indicated above, and since claims 3-5 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1, that claims 3-5 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 and 9-11 also stand objected to as being dependant on a rejected base claim. Claim 6 is amended to include the elements recited in claim 1. Claim 9 is amended to include the elements recited in claims 1 and 8, wherein claim 8 inherently includes the elements of claim 7. Since claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 9 have been placed in condition for allowance and the objections thereto should be withdrawn.

Since claims 10 and 11 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance and the objections thereto should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments made to the claims herein, and in view of the remarks and arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that each of the rejections and objections raised by the examiner in the present Office Action have been overcome. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record, considered individually or in any proper combination with one another, disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, or resolve any outstanding matters, the Examiner is sincerely invited to contact the applicant's undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1, 3-6 and 9-11 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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